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REVIEWS.

Elements of Geology. By JOSEPH LE CONTE. Revised and partly rewritten by HERMAN LE ROY FAIRCHILD. Fifth edition. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Pp. xii+667.

FOR a quarter of a century Le Conte's *Geology* has been largely used as a text-book in colleges, and as a work for the general reader. The high standing which the author had as a geologist and as a teacher, the literary excellence of his writings, and the even balancing of the divisions of the subject have all conspired to make Le Conte's text-book a popular one. Students and teachers of geology will be pleased to know that the book has lately been revised and in part rewritten by Professor H. L. Fairchild, head of the department of geology at the University of Rochester and for a long time secretary of the Geological Society of America.

In its general appearance, form, and style very few or no alterations in the book have been made. Advancing knowledge has required, of course, that many changes be made in the text, some of them of minor import and scarcely noticeable in a casual examination, while other changes are profound and indicate radical departures from what has heretofore been taught. Among the latter may be noted the substitution of the planetesimal theory of Chamberlin to account for the origin of the earth, instead of the Laplacian hypothesis that has been so long accepted.

The paging of the new edition practically conforms to that of the previous one. This has been done largely by a judicious withdrawal of some paragraphs and sections, and the addition of new ones that correspond in length. Many new cuts have been added, and a number of the sketches and drawings in the previous edition have given way to photographs. A few of the graphical illustrations or mathematical diagrams have been omitted. In the chapter on metamorphic rocks a number of changes have been made. Some additional varieties of these rocks have been described, the section on the origin of granite has been omitted, and the theory of metamorphism has been rewritten. In the historical division some new figures have been added, and changes in classification have been made to conform to later researches.

The section which treats of the glacial epoch has been rewritten and enlarged, and a number of cuts have been added. Professor Fairchild has shown much skill in preserving the spirit and style of the book, and yet by a series of deft touches he has been able, in most instances, to bring the subject-matter up to date and well to the forefront of the rapidly advancing science. HENRY LANDES.

Geology. By THOMAS C. CHAMBERLIN AND ROLLIN D. SALISBURY. Vol. I, Geologic Processes and Their Results; Vol. II, Earth History. (American Science Series — Advanced Course.) Henry Holt & Co., 1903.

VOLUME I is just issuing from the press. Volume II is to follow closely. The following extract from the preface indicates the controlling ideas of the authors:

> In the preparation of this work it has been the purpose of the authors to present an outline of the salient features of geology, as now developed, encumbered as little as possible by technicalities and details whose bearings on the general theme are unimportant. In common with most writers of text-books on geology, the authors believe that the subject is best approached by a study of the forces and processes now in operation, and of the results which these forces and processes are now bringing about. Such study necessarily involves a consideration of the principles which govern the activities of geologic agencies. These topics are presented in Vol. I, and prepare the way for the study of the history of past ages, which is outlined in Vol. II.
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> The general plan of the work has been determined by the experience of the authors as instructors. Little emphasis is laid on the commonly recognized subdivisions of the science, such as *dynamic geology*, *stratigraphic geology*, *physiographic geology*, etc. The treatment proceeds rather from the point of view that the science is a unit, that its one theme is *the history of the earth*, and that discussions of dynamic geology, physiographic geology, etc., apart from their historical bearings, lose much of their significance and interest. The effort has, therefore, been to emphasize the historical element, even in the discussion of special themes, such as the work of rivers, the work of snow and ice, and the origin and descent of rocks. This does not mean that phases of geology other than historical have been neglected, but it means that an effort has been made to give a historical cast to all phases of the subject, so far as the topics permit.
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> Throughout the work the central purpose has been, not merely to set forth the present status of knowledge, but to present it in such a way that the student will be introduced to the methods and spirit of the science, led to a sympathetic interest in its progress, and prepared to receive intelligently, and